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ABSTRACT

This booklet contains the final report of Maine's Commission on Child Abuse. The commission is charged with examining the current policies as well as public and private programs and resources related to physical and sexual abuse of children. The commission's recommendations are discussed in detail. The nine recommendations concern: teacher and administrator certification; learning results standards; Maine's Children's Trust Incorporated; clarification of statutory responsibilities; the Department of Human Services; support for school-based health centers; statistics and data; connecting child abuse with substance abuse and addiction and violence; and improving access to information. Appendixes are: Authorizing Joint Order; Commission Membership; Bureau of Child and Family Services Case Flow Continuum; Web Site of Youth Leadership Advisory Team; Maine Children's Trust Historical Summary and Background Information; Web Site of Communities for Children; and "Maine Kids Counts Data Book" Maine State Profile. (MKA)

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ED 447 384

Final Report
of the
COMMISSION ON CHILD ABUSE

November 1, 2000

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STATE OF MAINE
119TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

Final Report of the COMMISSION ON CHILD ABUSE

November 1, 2000

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Representative Judith B. Peavey
Representative Laura Sanborn

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Executive Summary

The Commission on Child Abuse was formed as a result of the passage of House Paper 1930, a joint order passed as amended by Committee Amendment "A," H-1135. The Commission is composed of 5 legislators, 2 members of the Senate and 3 members of the House of Representatives. The commission is charged with examining the current policies and public and private programs and resources related to physical and sexual abuse of children. See Appendix A for the authorizing joint order and Appendix B for a list of commission members.

Appointed during the summer, the members of the commission met in Augusta on September 5 and 18 and October 2 and 23, 2000. Senator Beverly Daggett and Representative Patricia Jacobs chaired the commission, which also included Senator Joel Abromson and Representatives Laura Sanborn and Judith Peavey. The commission members consulted with and received input from child abuse prevention experts, specialists and service providers, and representatives of the Attorney General's Office, the Department of Education and the Department of Human Services. Members of the Department of Human Service's Youth Leadership Advisory Team participated in the meeting on October 23rd. The commission heard from members of the public at each of its meetings.

The commission makes the following recommendations, some of which are the subject of proposed legislation from the commission and as such appear in section VII of the report.

1. Teacher and administrator certification
The commission recommends that the State Board of Education amend the rules regarding teacher and administrator certification and pre-service training requirements under rule Chapter 115 to phase in over time a requirement of training in the prevention, recognition and appropriate response to suspected and reported child abuse and neglect.

2. Learning Results Standards
The commission recommends that the Department of Education amend the rules regarding health and physical education standards in the learning results system under 20-A MRSA §6209 to incorporate in the performance indicators specific reference to personal body safety for students and the prevention, recognition and appropriate response to suspected and reported child abuse and neglect.

3. Maine Children's Trust Incorporated
The commission proposes legislation to re-write the duties of the Maine Children's Trust Incorporated to clarify that some of what are referred to in current law as "powers" are actually "responsibilities" and to add to those responsibilities 1) an on-going responsibility to develop plans with the cooperation of the child abuse and neglect councils to provide a stable base of funding for the councils at levels at least as high as the levels in the biennium 1999-2001 and 2) on a one-time basis the responsibility to develop a proposal along with the Department of Human Services, the child abuse and neglect councils, the Maine Association of Child Abuse and Neglect Councils and Prevent Child Abuse Maine to channel funding that is destined for the

child abuse and neglect councils through the Maine Children's Trust in order to maximize federal funding and to qualify for matching funds in as high amounts as possible.

4. Clarification of statutory responsibilities

The commission recommends that the county child abuse and neglect councils, the Maine Association of Child Abuse and Neglect Councils, Prevent Child Abuse Maine and the Maine Children's Trust Incorporated work together to clarify responsibilities in child abuse prevention, intervention and treatment and recommend any statutory changes that may be needed. The commission recommends that the Maine Children's Trust Incorporated be the lead agency in this effort and provide a report on these issues to the 120th Legislature by March 1, 2001.

5. Department of Human Services

The commission proposes changes and additions in the statutory responsibilities of the Department of Human Services to clarify that those responsibilities include the prevention of child abuse and neglect, a responsibility that the department is already carrying out through its own employees and through contracted services with agencies and providers across the state.

6. Support for school based health centers

The commission voted to support school based health centers. The 20 school based health centers in Maine are important providers of comprehensive physical and mental health care and provide important primary and preventive health care, care for chronic conditions, dental care, injury prevention and reproductive health services. They provide early easy access to services, overcoming many barriers that prevent students from receiving health care. They provide safe and confidential places for students to talk, serving on the frontlines in the prevention of child abuse. The commission endorses the school based health centers that exist in the state and encourages the expansion of these important child abuse prevention services.

7. Statistics and data

The commission struggled with statistics regarding child abuse reporting and referrals for prosecution and convictions. Work needs to be done by the Department of Human Services and the law enforcement and judicial communities to standardize the collection of information so that data is available to assist the makers of public policy. Examples of information that would have been helpful to the commission are statewide statistics on referrals of suspected child abuse and neglect to law enforcement for prosecution, disposition data, incidence of child abuse and information on the effectiveness of programs and approaches to child abuse and neglect. The commission recommends that the Department of Human Services, Department of Public Safety and the Judicial Department review and consider options for improvement of data collection.

8. Connecting child abuse and neglect with substance abuse and addiction and domestic violence

The commission recommends that Maine Children's Trust Incorporated take the lead in working to build collaborative relationships to address the interconnected issues of child abuse and neglect, domestic violence and substance abuse and addiction. The Maine Children's Trust Incorporated should undertake this work with the Department of Human Services, the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services, Mainely

Parents, the county child abuse and neglect councils, the Maine Association of Child Abuse and Neglect Councils, Prevent Child Abuse Maine, the Maine Children's Alliance, Communities for Children, substance abuse prevention and treatment agencies, domestic violence shelters and their advocates and interested agencies and persons. The goals of the new working relationships should include refocusing on prevention, recognizing the connections between substance abuse and addiction, domestic violence and child abuse and neglect, and providing services in a manner that addresses the needs of families. By March 1, 2001 the Maine Children's Trust Incorporated should report to the 120th Legislature on the results of this effort, including a plan for the provision of services and adding gender specific services.

9. Improving access to information

The commission requests that the Maine Children's Trust Incorporated bring together providers of child abuse prevention, intervention and treatment services, including the Department of Human Services, the county child abuse and neglect councils, the Maine Association of Child Abuse and Neglect Councils, Prevent Child Abuse Maine, the Maine Children's Alliance, and Mainely Parents, and by March 1, 2001, report back to the 120th Legislature recommendations for improving the provision of information to the public. The commission is interested in Internet based information, telephone referral service, brochures and listings of community resources.

I. INTRODUCTION

The Commission on Child Abuse was formed as a result of the passage of House Paper 1930, a joint order passed as amended by Committee Amendment "A," H-1135. The Commission is composed of 5 legislators, 2 members of the Senate and 3 members of the House of Representatives. The commission is charged with examining the current policies and public and private programs and resources related to physical and sexual abuse of children. See Appendix A for the authorizing joint order and Appendix B for a list of commission members.

II. PROCESS

Appointed during the summer, the members of the commission met in Augusta on September 5 and 18 and October 2 and 23, 2000. Senator Beverly Daggett and Representative Patricia Jacobs chaired the commission, which also included Senator Joel Abromson and Representatives Laura Sanborn and Judith Peavey. The commission members consulted with and received input from child abuse prevention experts, specialists and service providers, and representatives of the Attorney General's Office, the Department of Education and the Department of Human Services. Members of the Department of Human Service's Youth Leadership Advisory Team participated in the meeting on October 23rd. The commission heard from members of the public at each of its meetings.

III. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Child abuse is a devastating family and social problem that leaves scars on children, adults and entire communities. Often co-occurring with substance abuse and domestic violence, child abuse takes a tremendous toll on children, in part because they are growing and developing so quickly. Children, particularly little children, need safe and stable homes and nurturing adults to help them grow and to set the stage for healthy and productive lives.[1] Prevention, intervention and treatment aim to ensure that children can grow up in safe and nurturing families, to improve the functioning of families and to lessen suffering and save lives.

The **Department of Human Services** is the agency in Maine with responsibility for promoting the safety and well-being of children, protecting those who are abused and neglected, rehabilitating and reunifying families when appropriate, providing foster and adoptive families for children in need and promoting life skills and abilities for productive adulthood.[2]

The Department of Human Services, through the Bureau of Child and Family Services, administers Title IV-B of the Social Security Act, Subpart 1 and 2, performing its obligations

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[1] The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, "No Safe Haven: Children of Substance Abusing Parents," January, 1999, page v.

[2] State of Maine, Department of Human Services, Bureau of Child and Family Services, Annual Progress Review, June, 2000, page 1

under the State Child and Family Services Plan.[3] Within the Department of Human Services the Bureau of Child and Family Services performs the child protective functions of the department, contracting for social services and collaborating with social service providers and agencies. Title 22, Maine Revised Statutes, chapter 1071 authorizes the Bureau of Child and Family Services to:

- Take appropriate action, consistent with available funding, to protect and assist abused and neglected children, children in circumstances which present a substantial risk of abuse and neglect, and their families;
- Provide that children will be taken from the custody of their parents only when failure to do so would jeopardize their health or welfare;
- Give family rehabilitation and reunification priority as a means for protecting the welfare of children, but prevent needless delay for permanent plans for children when rehabilitation or reunification is not possible; and
- Promote the early establishment of permanent plans for the care and custody of children who cannot be returned to their families.

In accomplishing the duties assigned by law, the Department of Human Services is charged with receiving reports of abuse and neglect of children some of which are mandated reports under Title 22, section 4011, promptly investigating or referring the matter to another agency for investigation as required by law, determining the degree of harm or threatened harm to each child and taking appropriate action. The Child Death and Serious Injury Review Panel reviews all reports of child deaths and serious injuries and has issued its second annual report, noting improvements brought about through extensive educational programs for professionals, a risk assessment protocol for high risk cases being used by the Department of Human Services, collaborative case investigation and a child maltreatment risk and impact evaluation procedure developed by the State Forensic Service.

Appendix C provides a case flow continuum chart for the Bureau of Child and Family Services. The case flow continuum follows a report of suspected child abuse or neglect from intake, through the department's procedures, outlining the options at different stages and for the varying needs of children and their families. The possible steps in the process include screening, safety assessment, case opening, case management, the provision of services to the child and family, court proceedings, mandated reviews, decisions regarding the child's residence, permanency planning, termination of parental rights, foster care, adoption and emancipation.

In its strategic plan the Department of Human Services states as goal C, "To promote the safety and well being of Maine's children and families." This goal is followed by a series of objectives, performance measures and budget information, all of which were reviewed by the commission. The objectives regarding child abuse include the following:

- To increase the number of children in Maine who are protected from abuse and neglect;

[3] Ibid.

- ❖ To increase the number of children who have permanency and stability in their living situations;

- ❖ To increase the availability of appropriate placement resources;

- ❖ To increase the number of children in Maine who are physically and emotionally safe; and

- ❖ To decrease the length of time children are maintained in foster care before they are placed in safe and stable permanent placements.

The commission wishes to recognize the work of the **Youth Leadership Advisory Team** (YLAT), a statewide organization of youth ages 16 to 21 who are in the care of the Department of Human Services and who are working to advise and assist other youth. The YLAT maintains a website at www.ylat.usm.maine.edu and works on training, information needs, advocacy and leadership training. Their handbook "Answers" has won recognition on a national level and they were open and generous in providing assistance to the commission. The commission thanks the youth who participated in the commission meeting on October 23rd and all those who are working with YLAT, including members of the staff at the Department of Human Services and the Edmund S. Muskie School of Public Service. A copy of the YLAT web site is included as Appendix D.

Community efforts regarding child abuse and neglect prevention, intervention and treatment are recognized in state law in 22 MRSA chapter 1057. This chapter establishes a community-based system of child abuse and neglect councils to assess and monitor the extent and causes of child abuse and neglect and to coordinate services, provide training and provide education and outreach regarding child abuse and neglect and its prevention.[4] The councils receive grants to further the purposes of the chapter and advise the Department of Human Services regarding a statewide strategy for child abuse and neglect prevention. The council provides an extensive array of services to help prevent and address child abuse and neglect. These services range from educational programs for teachers and professionals, to parenting education for new parents, to targeted programs for persons at risk of becoming child abusers or who have been abusers. Advocacy and education go hand in hand in the councils. The child abuse and neglect councils participate in a statewide organization, the Maine Association of Child Abuse and Neglect Councils.

The **Maine Children's Trust Incorporated** is created in statute as a statewide non-profit corporation whose mission is to fund child abuse prevention programs, including advocacy, education and direct program services.[5] The trust provides a mechanism for receiving federal funds, voluntary contributions by individuals and groups, and money provided by taxpayers under an income tax check off mechanism. The trust is designated to receive federal Child Abuse Prevention Treatment Act funds, which amount to 58% of the trust's budget. Contributions, foundation awards, donations and interest amount to 22% of the trust's budget.

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[4] 22 MRSA §3872

[5] 22 MRSA chapter 1058

Twenty percent of the budget is provided by the check-off contributions of taxpayers. Over $2,000,000 has been awarded to community based prevention efforts through the trust since it was established in 1985. See Appendix E for a summary of trust activities over the years since 1985 and background information on the trust.

The Maine Children's Trust is perfectly situated to accomplish the purposes of the federal Community-based Family Resource and Support Grant, which are:

- To support state efforts to develop, operate, expand and enhance a network of community-based, prevention-focused, family resource and support programs that coordinate resources among a range of existing public and private organizations; and

- To foster understanding, appreciation and knowledge of diverse populations in order to be effective in preventing and treating child abuse and neglect.

Communities for Children is a statewide initiative of Governor Angus S. King, the Department of Human Services, the Department of Education, the Department of Corrections, the Department of Public Safety and the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services. Communities for Children brings together state agencies working in the area of children's issues with local communities. The goals are to measurably improve the well being of children in every Maine community and to increase educational attainment and achievement levels of all Maine children.

Each Communities for Children project is led by its own local leadership group. The project assesses local community need, gathers local data, develops an action plan, participates with other communities in training, establishes its own programs and activities and the progress and challenges of its efforts. Prevention is stressed in efforts within the community to meet children's needs within their own families and communities. Over 70% of the population of the state is represented in the 60 communities that participate in Communities for Children as of October 2000. See Appendix F for a copy of the web site of Communities for Children, http://janus.state.me.us/cfc.

The Maine Children's Alliance is a membership organization whose mission is to be a strong and powerful voice to improve the lives of all Maine's children, youth and families. The alliance provides leadership to create and change public policy on behalf of children, collecting information and developing, promoting and advocating for a strategic plan to achieve its mission. The alliance publishes an annual report on the status of children living in Maine. This report, called "Maine Kids Count Data Book," contains state level data on physical and mental health, social and economic opportunity, education and learning. It provides information on health coverage for children, dental care and emergency room use by children. There is trend and census data and information on youth at risk. State and county data provide information on infant birth weight and mortality, child and teen deaths and suicides, school enrollment and drop out rates, rates of disabilities, demographics and populations receiving assistance through Medicaid, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and subsidized school lunch programs. The profile for the state is included as Appendix G.

Child abuse occurs outside the home, sometimes even in the schools. In recent years Maine has devoted attention to the difficult issue of child abuse perpetrated by employees of schools and school districts. In an effort to prevent the employment of persons with a history of child abuse, state law now requires criminal history background checks for all new school personnel who are certified, authorized or approved by the **Department of Education** and phases in checks for current employees. During calendar year 2000 criminal history background checks of school personnel began under state law. Over 25,000 persons were fingerprinted for criminal history background checks. As of late October fewer than 6 persons were found to have criminal convictions for offenses that would disqualify them from certification, authorization or approval from the Department of Education. The Department of Education views this very low number of convictions as an indication that the law is performing well, that it is acting as a deterrent to convicted child abusers being employed in the public schools and school districts.[6]

IV. WHAT THE DATA TELL US

The Annual Report on Referrals, 1999, of the Bureau of Child and Family Services Child Protective Services provides a wealth of information on child abuse and neglect in the state.[7] During 1999, the Department of Human Services received 15,596 referrals regarding child abuse and neglect. Of these the department determined that 6909 did not rise to the level of child abuse and neglect, concluding that they were inappropriate for action by the Bureau of Child and Family Services. Examples of the type of family situation in these referrals include poor parenting practice, parent-child conflict, conflicts over custody or visitation and families in financial, physical or emotional crisis. The department has an extensive list of community resources and attempts to help these families outside of the child protective services system.

The sources of child abuse and neglect reports are varied. The largest number come from school personnel, followed by social services and law enforcement personnel, mental health and other health care professionals, neighbors, friends and relatives and families themselves. The families are often going through difficult situations, facing a number of stressful events. The more common stress factors for families include mental and physical health problems, alcohol and drug abuse, family violence and assaultive behavior, severe acting out behavior or emotional problems, school problems and divorce.

During 1999, 4450 reports of suspected child abuse and neglect, involving 9613 children, were assigned to caseworkers for complete assessments. Complete assessments were finished in 4084 cases, resulting in findings of substantiated child abuse and neglect in 2236 cases and unsubstantiated findings in 1748 cases. Of the substantiated cases, the largest number involved physical abuse, followed closely by neglect, then sexual abuse and lastly emotional maltreatment.

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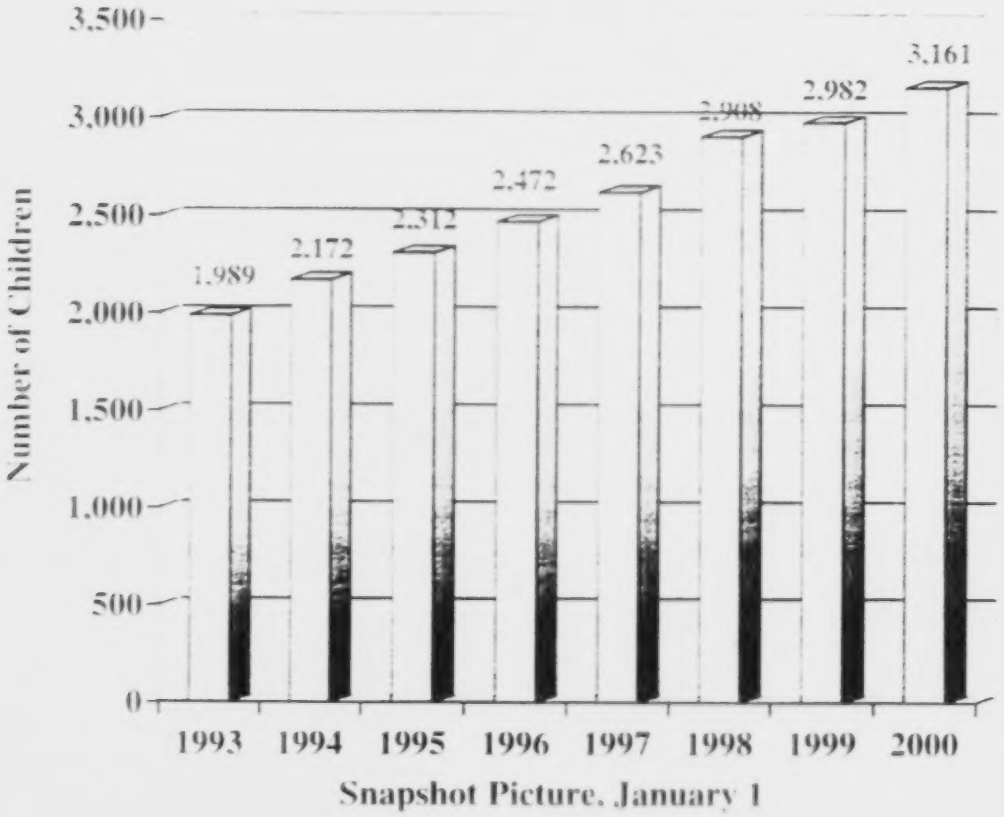
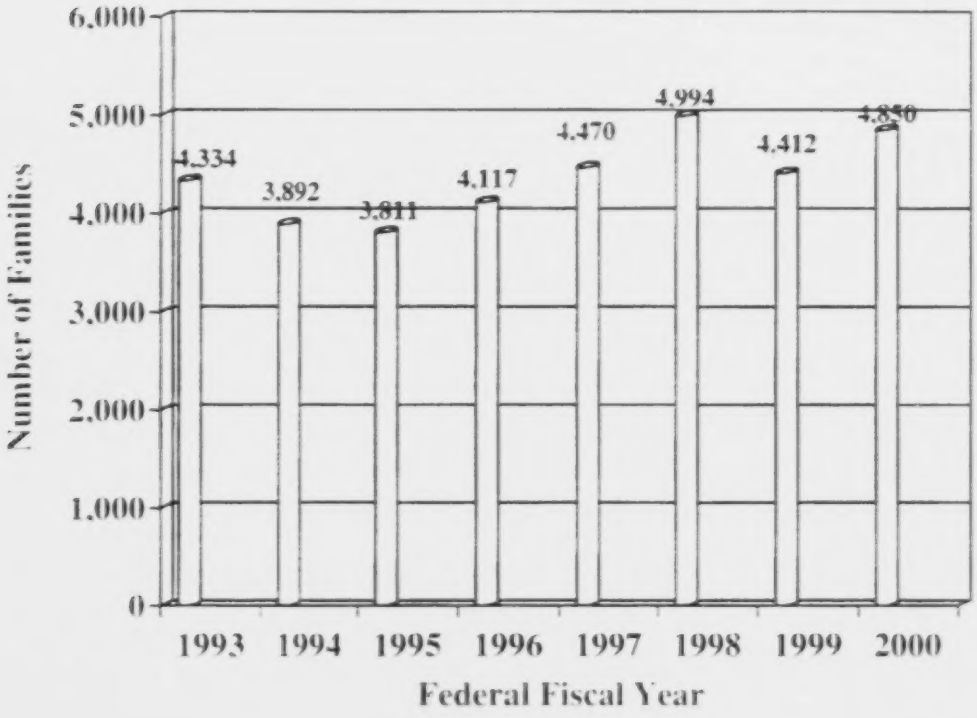
[6] Comment of Judy Lucarelli, Deputy Commissioner of Education, at a meeting of the Commission on Child Abuse, October 23, 2000.

[7] Maine Department of Human Services, Bureau of Child and Family Services Child Protective Services, Annual Report on Referrals, 1999

Maine Department of Human Services, Bureau of Child and Family Services: Number of Children in DHS Care



Maine Department of Human Services, Bureau of Child and Family Services:
Number of Child Protective Assessments Opened



The commission wishes to note the progress that has been made in providing assessments for all cases for which the department has determined assessment to be appropriate. Historically a significant number of cases fell victim to problems with capacity and lack of resources. During 1998 the department determined to address the problem of unassigned cases and contracted with community-based agencies for assessment services. In that year 2973 cases determined to be appropriate for assessment were assigned to community-based agencies under contract with the department. During 1999, 1264 cases judged to be appropriate for assessment were not assigned and received no services due to insufficient staff. As of late October 2000, close to 3000 cases had been assigned for assessments to child protective services within the department and over 2700 cases had been assigned to community-based agencies for assessments. The total number of cases in 9 months that were unassigned but that had been determined to be appropriate for assessment had fallen to a new low of under 150 cases.

V. NEW DIRECTIONS

During the 1990's there emerged a new direction in state approaches to child abuse and neglect. This new direction focuses heavily on preventative services for children and families. The National Conference of State Legislatures wrote about this new direction in its booklet "New Directions for Child Protective Services, Supporting Children, Families and Communities Through Legislative Reform."[8] In this booklet, the National Conference of State Legislatures provided information on a reform agenda in child protective services in which:

- Troubled families are reached before a report of suspected abuse or neglect is made to the state;
- Intervention focuses on the entire family;
- Emphasis is placed on achieving results, not just following procedures;
- Community-based systems of care provide support for children and adults;
- Assessment of family needs accompanies an investigation into whether abuse or neglect occurred;
- Effective prosecution is provided for serious cases; and
- Children are protected and families supported by natural helping networks of families, friends, neighborhoods and faith communities.

The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse (CASA) at Columbia University published a report in 1999 entitled "No Safe Haven: Children of Substance Abusing Parents."[9] In this report CASA outlines the need for addiction and substance abuse services to address the problem of child abuse and the need for child abuse prevention and treatment to address the problems posed by addiction and substance abuse. To illustrate the enormity of the connection between addiction and substance abuse and child abuse and neglect, CASA's analysis indicates that parental substance abuse and addiction is the chief culprit in 70 to 90% of all child welfare spending.[10] CASA has called for adoption of guiding principles that address the connection between addiction and substance abuse and child welfare services, including:

- Every child has a right to his/her parents getting a fair chance at recovery with timely and comprehensive treatment;
- Every child has a right to be free of addicted and abusing parents who, despite the availability of treatment options, are unable to conquer their addiction;

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[8] "New Directions for Child Protective Services, Supporting Children, Families and Communities Through Legislative Reform," by Stephen M. Christian, National Conference of State Legislatures, July, 1997, page 1

[9] National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, "No Safe Haven: Children of Substance Abusing Parents," January, 1999.

[10] Ibid, page ii.

- ❖ Every child has a right to have precious and urgent developmental needs take precedence over the timing of parental recovery; and

- ❖ The goal of child welfare is to form and support safe, nurturing families for children, whether that be the biological family or an adoptive family.

The CASA report suggests that these guiding principles form the basis for redesigning the child welfare system starting with prevention; reforming child welfare to address addiction and substance abuse issues; funding comprehensive treatment; providing substance abuse training for all child welfare, court, social and health service professionals; and evaluating outcomes, increasing research and improving data systems.

As the background information outlined above shows, Maine has already started to refocus its child welfare efforts, adopting new directions in child protection and child abuse prevention. Having done so, Maine is well on the way to healthier children and families and stronger local communities. More work remains to be done. In order to build a stronger child protective system further attention needs to be paid to primary, secondary and tertiary prevention services. A new focus is needed on the connection between child welfare and addiction and substance abuse services, making it appropriate for the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services to consider integrating mental health and substance abuse treatment at the provider and payment levels. The Commission on Child Abuse recommends that further actions, outlined in the recommendations section of this report, be taken to further protect children and to strengthen families and communities.

VI. RECOMMENDATIONS

The commission makes the following recommendations, some of which are the subject of proposed legislation from the commission and as such appear in section VII.

1. Teacher and administrator certification

The commission recommends that the State Board of Education amend the rules regarding teacher and administrator certification and pre-service training requirements under rule Chapter 115 to phase in over time a requirement of training in the prevention, recognition and appropriate response to suspected and reported child abuse and neglect.

2. Learning Results Standards

The commission recommends that the Department of Education amend the rules regarding health and physical education standards in the learning results system under 20-A MRSA §6209 to incorporate in the performance indicators specific reference to personal body safety of students and the prevention, recognition and appropriate response to suspected and reported child abuse and neglect.

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The commission proposes legislation to re-write the duties of the Maine Children's Trust Incorporated to clarify that some of what are referred to in current law as "powers" are actually

"responsibilities" and to add to those responsibilities 1) an on-going responsibility to develop plans with the cooperation of the child abuse and neglect councils to provide a stable base of funding for the councils at levels at least as high as the levels in the biennium 1999-2001 and 2) on a one-time basis the duty to develop a proposal along with the Department of Human Services, the child abuse and neglect councils, the Maine Association of Child Abuse and Neglect Councils and Prevent Child Abuse Maine to channel funding that is destined for the child abuse and neglect councils through the Maine Children's Trust in order to maximize federal funding and to qualify for matching funds in as high amounts as possible.

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7. Statistics and data

The commission struggled with statistics regarding child abuse reporting and referrals for prosecution and convictions. Work needs to be done by the Department of Human Services and the law enforcement and judicial communities to standardize the collection of information so that data is available to assist the makers of public policy. Examples of information that would have been helpful to the commission are statewide statistics on referrals of suspected child abuse and neglect to law enforcement for prosecution, disposition data, incidence of child abuse and information on the effectiveness of programs and approaches to child abuse and neglect. The commission recommends that the Department of Human Services, Department of Public Safety and the Judicial Department review and consider options for improvement of data collection.

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The commission recommends that Maine Children's Trust Incorporated take the lead in working to build collaborative relationships to address the interconnected issues of child abuse and neglect, domestic violence and substance abuse and addiction. The Maine Children's Trust Incorporated should undertake this work with the Department of Human Services, the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services, Mainely Parents, the county child abuse and neglect councils, the Maine Association of Child Abuse and Neglect Councils, Prevent Child Abuse Maine, the Maine Children's Alliance, Communities for Children, substance abuse prevention and treatment agencies, domestic violence shelters and their advocates and interested agencies and persons. The goals of the new working relationships should include refocusing on prevention, recognizing the connections between substance abuse and addiction, domestic violence and child abuse and neglect, and providing services in a manner that addresses the needs of families. By March 1, 2001 the Maine Children's Trust Incorporated should report to the 120th Legislature on the results of this effort, including a plan for the provision of services and adding gender specific services.

9. Improving access to information

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VII. SUGGESTED LEGISLATION

State of Maine Legislature 120th Legislature
First Regular Session

Be it enacted by the people of the State of Maine:

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §3884 is repealed and reenacted to read:

§3884. Responsibilities of the Maine Children's Trust Fund Incorporated; powers of the Board of the Maine Children's Trust Incorporated

1. Responsibilities. The responsibilities of the trust include the following:

A. Develop a biennial working plan for trust activities that sets overall statewide goals and objectives for child abuse prevention activities, establishes priorities for distribution of money in the fund and provides a working plan for the trust for the biennium. In developing the plan, the board may:

(1) Review and evaluate existing prevention programs, including high-quality child care options;

(2) Ensure that equal opportunity exists for the establishment of prevention programs and receipt of money from the fund among all geographic areas in the State; and

(3) Review and evaluate public and private funding sources;

B. Develop, initiate, propose or recommend ideas or innovations in rules, laws, policies and programs concerning child abuse and neglect to the Governor, the Legislature, state executive agencies, the business community and other entities. The board may also assist in the coordination and exchange of information and the maintenance of prevention programs;

C. Publicize criteria and review applications for grants and award those grants to recipients that best address the purposes of this chapter and submit to the Legislature the list of both successful and unsuccessful applicants who have allowed their names to be placed on the list along with reasons for and against the applications;

D. Establish a process for monitoring and review of grants awarded pursuant to this chapter;

E. As a primary prevention activity of the trust, develop and implement a campaign to provide statewide education and public information to enhance public awareness concerning child abuse and neglect;

F. Enter into contracts with public or private agencies and accept gifts or grants from federal, state or private sources to carry out this chapter;

G. Employ staff as the board determines necessary to implement its responsibilities;

H. Cooperate with and avail itself of the services of governmental agencies and the University of Maine System; and cooperate with, assist and otherwise encourage local or regional, private or public organizations in the various communities of the State in the prevention of abuse and neglect among children in the community and the State; and

I. Develop plans with the cooperation of the child abuse and neglect councils established under chapter 1057 to provide a stable base for funding the councils in amounts no lower than the amounts provided in the biennial budget of fiscal years 1999-2000 and 2000-2001.

2. Powers. The powers of the board include the following:

A. Apply for and receive funds from any private source or governmental entity, whether by way of grant, donation, loan or other means;

B. Create partnerships between the public and private sectors to facilitate the purposes of this chapter and to:

(1) Bridge the gap in knowledge and communication between the public and private sectors regarding prevention programs and prevention policies;

(2) Build the leadership capacity of public and private sector individuals and institutions regarding prevention programs, prevention policies and the importance of high-quality child care in all children's early years; and

(3) Encourage active financial and in-kind participation from the public and private sectors in carrying out the purposes of this chapter;

C. Adopt bylaws, have the general powers accorded corporations under Title 13, chapter 81 and perform other acts as necessary or convenient to carry out the lawful purposes of the trust;

D. Sue or be sued in the board's own name;

E. Purchase, receive, hold, lease or acquire by foreclosure, operate, manage, license and sell, convey, transfer, grant or lease real and personal property, together with those rights and privileges that may be incidental and appurtenant to the property and the use of the

property, including, but not limited to, real or personal property acquired by the board from time to time in the satisfaction of debts or enforcement of obligations;

F. Make expenditures and incur obligations reasonably required in the exercise of sound business principles to secure possession of, preserve, maintain, insure and improve real and personal property interests acquired by the board;

G. Acquire, subscribe for, own, hold, sell, assign, transfer, mortgage or pledge the stock, shares, bonds, debentures, notes or other securities and evidences of interest in or indebtedness of a person, firm, corporation, joint stock company, partnership, association or trust, and, while the owner or holder of stock, shares, bonds, debentures, notes or other securities, exercise the rights, powers and privileges of ownership, including the right to vote on the stock, shares, bonds, debentures, notes or other securities;

H. Mortgage, pledge or otherwise encumber any property right or thing of value acquired pursuant to the powers contained in paragraph E, F or G as security for the payment of any part of the purchase price of the property right or thing of value; and

I. Expend principal from the endowment fund as established in section 3885, subsection 5, only under emergency circumstances by 2/3 vote of the board.

Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §4004, subsection 1 is amended to read:

§4004. Authorizations

1. General. The department may take appropriate action, consistent with available funding, that will help prevent child abuse and neglect and achieve the goals of section 4003 and subchapter XI-A, including:

A. Developing and providing services which:

(1) Support and reinforce parental care of children;

(2) Supplement that care; and

(3) When necessary, substitute for parental care of children;

B. Encouraging the voluntary use of these and other services by families and children who may need them;

C. Cooperating and coordinating with other agencies, facilities or persons providing related services to families and children;

D. Establishing and maintaining a Child Protective Services Contingency Fund to provide temporary assistance to families to help them provide proper care for their children; and

E. Establishing a child death and serious injury review panel for reviewing deaths and serious injuries to children. The panel consists of the following members: the Chief Medical Examiner, a pediatrician, a public health nurse, forensic and community mental health clinicians, law enforcement officers, departmental child welfare staff, district attorneys and criminal or civil assistant attorneys general.

The purpose of the panel is to recommend to state and local agencies methods of improving the child protection system, including modifications of statutes, rules, policies and procedures.

Sec. 3. Cooperative work. The Maine Children's Trust Incorporated, established under Title 22, chapter 1058, shall work cooperatively with the Department of Human Services, the child abuse and neglect councils and the Maine Association of Child Abuse and Neglect Councils, established under Title 22, chapter 1057, and statewide organizations working to prevent child abuse and neglect to develop a proposal to channel funding for the child abuse and neglect councils through the Maine Children's Trust Incorporated in order to maximize federal funding and to qualify for matching funds in as high amounts as possible. By January 15, 2002, the Maine Children's Trust Incorporated shall report the proposal to the Second Regular Session of the 120th Legislature.

SUMMARY

This bill reorganizes the powers and duties of the board of directors of the Maine Children's Trust Fund Incorporated, clarifying what are duties and what are powers. In addition it would give to the trust 3 new duties: 1) a permanent duty to develop plans with the child abuse and neglect councils to provide a stable base of funding for the councils at levels at least as high as the levels in the fiscal years 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 biennial budget, and 2) a one-time duty to develop a proposal along with the child abuse and neglect councils and the Maine Association of Child Abuse and Neglect Councils and Prevent Child Abuse Maine to channel funding that is destined to the child abuse and neglect councils through the trust in order to maximize federal funding and qualify for matching funds in as high amounts as possible. The bill requires a report to the Second Regular Session of the 120th Legislature by January 15, 2002, on the proposal to maximize federal funding and matching funds.

This bill clarifies the authority of the Department of Human Services, in the Child and Family Services and Child Protection Act, to take appropriate action, consistent with existing funding, to prevent child abuse and neglect.

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APPPENDIX A

Authorizing Joint Order

L.D.

DATE: 4-14-00 (Filing No. H-1135)

JUDICIARY

Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Clerk of the House.

STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
119TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1930, "Joint Order Establishing the Commission to Study Child Abuse"

Amend the order by striking out everything from the first indented paragraph to the end and inserting in its place the following:

'**ORDERED,** the Senate concurring, that the Commission on Child Abuse is established as follows.'

1. Commission established. The Commission on Child Abuse, referred to in this order as the "commission," is established to study the prevention of and responses to child abuse.

2. Membership. The commission consists of the following 5 members, each of whom must possess a strong interest or expertise in the problem of child abuse:

A. Two members of the Senate, appointed by the President of the Senate; and

B. Three members of the House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the House.

Appointments must include at least one member from each of the following: the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary; the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice; and the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services.

3. Appointments; chairs; convening of commission. All appointments must be made no later than 30 days following passage of this order. The appointing authorities shall notify the Executive Director of the Legislative Council once all appointments have been made. The first named Senate member is the Senate chair and the first named House of Representatives member is the House chair. The first meeting must be called by the chairs no later than June 1, 2000.

4. Duties. The commission shall examine the current policies and public and private programs and resources related to physical and sexual abuse of children.

To this end, the commission may:

A. Hold public hearings to collect information from individuals and organizations to:

1. Define the scope and nature of the problem of child abuse;

2. Consider abuse of children who are now adults, with special emphasis on persons who, as children, were in the care or custody of the State;

3. Identify public and private programs addressing child abuse and child abuse prevention;

4. Identify public and private resources and potential resources to prevent and respond to child abuse;

5. Identify public and private resources for support and treatment of victims of child abuse; and

6. Identify means to coordinate the available programs and resources to prevent and respond to child abuse;

B. Consult with the following:

1. Child abuse clinical experts;

2. Medical care providers;

3. Child abuse prevention specialists;

4. Counselors and therapists with experience in treating child abuse;

5. Teachers and guidance counselors;

6. District attorneys;

7. Legal experts in child abuse prevention and proceedings;

8. The Commissioner of Human Services;

9. The Attorney General; and

10. Any other person that the commission determines would be helpful to the commission's study; and

C. Examine any other issues to further the purposes of the study.

5. Staff assistance. Upon approval of the Legislative Council, the Office of Policy and Legal Analysis shall provide necessary staffing services to the commission.

6. Compensation. Members of the commission are entitled to receive the legislative per diem as defined in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 3, section 2 and reimbursement for travel and other necessary expenses for attendance at meetings of the commission.

7. Report. The commission shall submit a report along with any recommended legislation to the 120th Legislature no later than November 1, 2000. If the commission requires an extension of time to make its report, it may apply to the Legislative Council, which may grant the extension.

8. Commission budget. The chairs of the commission, with assistance from the commission staff, shall administer the commission budget. Within 10 days after its first meeting, the commission shall present a work plan and proposed budget to the Legislative Council for its approval. The commission may not incur expenses that would result in the commission's exceeding its approved budget. Upon request from the commission, the

Executive Director of the Legislative Council or the executive director's designee shall provide the commission chairs and staff with a status report on the commission budget, expenditures incurred and paid and available funds.'

SUMMARY

This amendment replaces the joint order. It creates the Commission on Child Abuse, consisting of 5 Legislators.

The commission's charge is narrower than proposed in the original joint order. The commission shall examine the current policies and public and private programs and resources related to physical and sexual abuse of children. The commission may accept public testimony. The commission may identify means to coordinate the available programs and resources to prevent and respond to child abuse. The commission's report is due November 1, 2000.

APPENDIX B

Commission Membership

COMMISSION ON THE STUDY AND PREVENTION OF CHILD ABUSE

Joint Order/HP 1930

Membership 2000

Appointment(s) by the President

Sen. Beverly C. Daggett — **Chair**
16 Pine Street
Augusta, ME 04330
(207)-622-9053

Sen. I. Joel Abromson
Cumberland Advisors
2271 Congress Street
Portland, ME 04103
(207)-797-4438

Appointment(s) by the Speaker

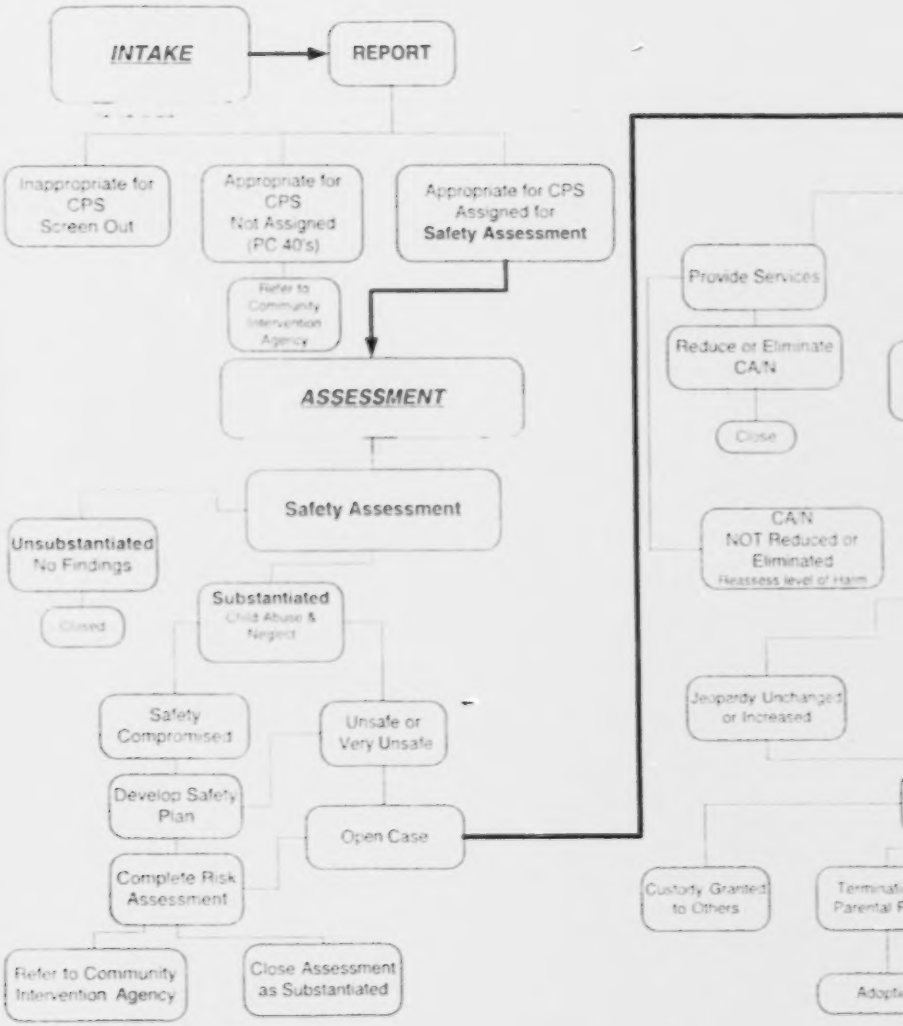
Rep. Patricia T. Jacobs — **Chair**
P.O. Box 576
North Turner, ME 04266
(207)-224-7749

Rep. Judith B. Peavey
358 Mountain Road
Woolwich, ME 04579
(207)-882-6800

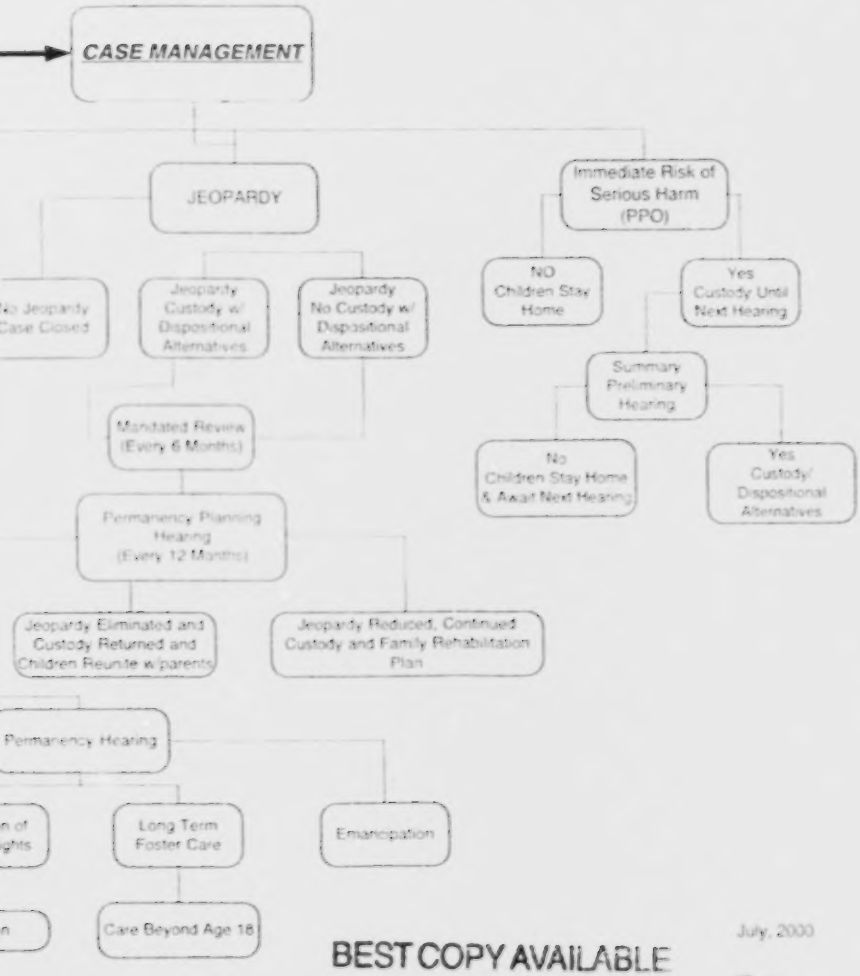
Rep. Laura Sanborn
RR 1 Box 332
Old Town, ME 04468
(207)-394-4401

Staff: Jane Orbeton, OPLA 287-1670

APPENDIX C
Bureau of Child and Family Services Case Flow Continuum


INTAKE
REPORT
Inappropriate for CPS Screen Out
Appropriate for CPS Not Assigned (PC 40's)
Appropriate for CPS Assigned for Safety Assessment
Refer to Community Intervention Agency
ASSESSMENT
Safety Assessment
Unsubstantiated No Findings
Closed
Substantiated Child Abuse & Neglect
Safety Compromised
Unsafe or Very Unsafe
Develop Safety Plan
Open Case
Complete Risk Assessment
Refer to Community Intervention Agency
Close Assessment as Substantiated
Provide Services
Reduce or Eliminate CA/N
Close
CA/N NOT Reduced or Eliminated Reassess level of Harm
Jeopardy Unchanged or Increased
Custody Granted to Others

Bureau of Child & Family Services
Case Flow Continuum
Child Welfare Training Institute


CASE MANAGEMENT
JEOPARDY
Immediate Risk of Serious Harm (PPO)
No Jeopardy Case Closed
Jeopardy Custody w/ Dispositional Alternatives
Jeopardy No Custody w/ Dispositional Alternatives
NO Children Stay Home
Yes Custody Until Next Hearing
Summary Preliminary Hearing
Mandated Review (Every 6 Months)
No Children Stay Home & Await Next Hearing
Yes Custody/ Dispositional Alternatives
Permanency Planning Hearing (Every 12 Months)
Jeopardy Eliminated and Custody Returned and Children Reunite w/parents
Jeopardy Reduced, Continued Custody and Family Rehabilitation Plan
Permanency Hearing
Long Term Foster Care
Emancipation
Care Beyond Age 18

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APPENDIX D

Web site of Youth Leadership Advisory Team

YLAT

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR STORIES, ART, POETRY OR OTHER STUFF TO: YLAT NEWSLETTER

YLAT:
Youth in care connecting to make community.

Youth Leadership Advisory Team

Home Page

Next Page

Features

Links to other stories:

- Youth Summit by Michelle S.
- Celebrate! Teen Conference!
- The Fireside Chat by Liz P.
- Name that Newsletter
- Giving Youth a Voice By Hugh S.
- "Quilt" a story that represents youth in care in Maine
- Living on your own
- Poetry &More
- How to Find Us...
- Questions & Answers ...
- Warm Up for Line Dancing!

To contact us:

Toll Free: 1-877-792-YLAT
Toll Free: 1-800-792-9528
Tel: 207-780-5861
Fax: 207-780-5817

The YLAT Newsletter
YLAT Coordinator: Penthea Burns
Po Box 15010
Portland, Maine 04112
Pburns@usm.maine.edu

APPENDIX E

Maine Children's Trust historical summary and background information

MAINE CHILDREN'S TRUST - Historical Summary

1984 Various groups support enactment of Maine Children's Trust.
Legislation submitted in December 1984 by Sen. John Diamond, Majority leader, establishes Board and tax return checkoff to fund prevention activities.

1985 Legislation enacted, effective September 19, 1985.
Board recruitment process begins.
L.D. 2000 submitted in fall to repair defects in original bill (as mechanism for administration)

Jan. Tax return checkoff line appears on Maine income tax form.
Governor Brennan names original board and appoints Sally Leahey chair.

Feb. CAN Councils protest lack of CAN representation on Board.
First Board meeting.

March Second Board meeting; Board adjourns to lobby Republican legislators who oppose L.D. 2000 (Board want to hire staff to get things moving; legislators contend that original "deal" was that no funds would be spent until $100,000 had been accumulated).

April David Mills of the Michigan Children's Trust Fund visits to share experience and insights.

May Board sponsors Statewide children's essay contest.

July Board hires Ray Cook as Executive Director (Ray is now director of community programs for "New Beginnings" in Lewiston).
Sally Leahey resigns; Governor McKernan appoints Anita St. Onge as chair.

1986

Jan. First public awareness campaign begins directed by Board member Ben Levine, owner of Media Source, Inc. (focus: T.V. spot by Joan Benoit and poster campaign).
Coordination meetings begin with CAN Councils and peter out after several months.

1987

Jan. First funded project begins operation.

Sept. Kate Arno hired to conduct 1987 public awareness campaign.

1988

Jan Public awareness campaign increases attention paid to newspapers and radio and development of media professionals who support the campaign.

Feb First legislative coffee.

May Coordination meetings with CAN Councils resume; issues: duplication of effort, public information and recognition, competition for funds, and need of CAN Councils for more support.

Sept. Grant application packets rated by members of the Program Committee for 89 awards weigh 8 pounds each, take about 2 weeks to review and 2 Committee meetings to develop recommendations to Board.

1989

Feb. Minutes note that poor meeting attendance has become a chronic problem; cause elusive.

April First Main Prevention Awards ceremony held n Blaine House.
Anita St.Onge resigns. Governor McKernan appoints Evelyn Trotzky as chair. In light of repeated attempts by legislators over the past 3 years to amend the enabling legislation in restrictive ways and to misrepresent the use of funds in the Trust budget, the Board adopts a new strategy of trying to increase revenues so that staff costs will represent a more acceptable fraction of the whole. A business plan is developed but fundraising from foundations is frustrated by the quasi-state status of the Trust.

1990

April Trust supporters in the legislature finally cave in under pressure. Legislature abolishes the Trust Board, locates administration to Division of Community Services with new advisory board mostly made up of previous critics of the Board. Legislature requires pass through of 95% of check off funds to community programs. In the absence of sufficient administrative capacity at DCS, decision is made to pass prorated funds through to CAN Councils for redistribution within their areas. In fact, no funds are distributed by the State for 18 months after elimination of Board.

1991

June On the advise of DCS, responsibility for administering the funds (i.e., the pass through to the CAN's) dissolves to DHS.

1992 DHS continues to administer the funds, despite staff losses due to budget cuts.
Without public education effort checkoff revenues begin to decrease.

1993

Feb Legislative Committee on Audit and Program Review begins its first sunset review of the Trust. Based on work of Committee analyst Erna Koch, Committee decides to consider legislation re-establishing Board in the 1994 session.

March Ad hoc task force for re-establishment drawn from old Board, CAN Councils, and DHS begins meetings to develop the new organization.

1994

March Bill containing provision for establishment of Maine Children's Trust, Inc. passes both house without debate.

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MAINE CHILDREN'S TRUST, INC. 93 Western Avenue • Augusta, Maine 04330 • 207-623-5120 • Fax 207-623-5134 • mct@mint.net

MAINE CHILDREN'S TRUST - Answers to Questions Frequently Asked

What is the Trust's Mission?

The Maine Children's Trust is the statewide private non-profit corporation whose mission is to prevent child abuse and neglect through advocacy, education and the funding of effective community based child abuse and neglect prevention programs

Why was the Trust started

During the 1980's a dramatic rise in child abuse cases led most of the 50 states to establish child abuse and neglect funds for community prevention programs. In September of 1985 Maine enacted the original Maine Children's Trust legislation.

What kind of programs does the Trust support?

The State and many other organizations provide *intervention* programs focusing on cases where abuse and neglect has already occurred. **The Trust is *the* Statewide entity which underwrites solutions to the prevention of child abuse and neglect.**

Prevention is the essential strategy for stopping child abuse and neglect. Based on the most comprehensive study to date - the 15 year Hawaii "Healthy Start" project - *an incredible 99% of child abuse can simply and clearly be prevented.* Significantly, this extensive study and its findings is based exclusively upon identified high-risk families including families with prior histories of abuse and neglect. **The Trust supports a variety of programs throughout the state that prevents Child Abuse and Neglect in a measurable way.**

How is the Trust funded?

The original legislation established the Trust as a charitable contribution "check-off" on the Maine State income tax form. Presently, as a non-profit corporation, the Trust qualifies for, solicits, and receives Federal grants as well as foundation and private sector donations.

Why was the Trust legislation revised in 1994?

In light of the enormity and urgency of child abuse and neglect and towards establishing prevention solutions, the check-off revenues had to be augmented by other financial resources. Under the original legislation the Trust's quasi-governmental status often prevented it from receiving alternate funds.

The new legislation establishes the Trust as a non profit corporation with financial and administrative independence from the State. This operating structure provides greater access to funding resources as does it broaden representation on the Board of Directors.

How has Maine benefitted from the Trust?

Since 1988 the Trust has awarded more than $2,000,000 for community based solutions; these awards have served thousands of children and families in every county in Maine.

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APPENDIX F

Web site of Communities for Children

Communities for Children

A partnership for Maine's future.

In January 1997, the Governor of the State of Maine, Angus S. King, launched a statewide initiative created by his Children's Cabinet called Communities for Children. Its goals are to measurably improve the well-being of children in every Maine community and to increase educational attainment and achievement levels of all Maine children. All Maine communities are invited to become "Partner Communities" with state government. To date, 60 communities have joined the initiative, representing 225 municipalities and 70% of the state's population.

Contents of this Web Site:

Vision Statement What is Communities for Children?	How to Become a Partner Community Grant Opportunities	"What's Working" in Maine
Directories: Partner Communities by Region Executive Council Advisory Council Children's Cabinet Contacts	**Web Links:** Useful Web Links for Partners Children's Cabinet Web Site America's Promise Maine's Promise (coming soon)	**Coming Events:** Calendar of Events (page coming soon) Cluster Conversations (coming this fall) Training Institutes (coming in spring 2001)
Quarterly Memo	Recent Events	Key Initiatives & Promising Practices

APPENDIX G

"Maine Kids Count Data Book" Maine State Profile

Maine State Profile

Photo by Lynn Davey

Physical and Mental Health	Number	Rate or Percent	Change from last book	National Rate
Children aged 0-17 participating in Medicaid, Jul 98-Jun 99	85,792	28.9%	+4.9%	19.8%
General practice dentists; full time equivalent rate per 1,000 children aged 0-17, 1998	393.0	1.32	+24.8%	
Live births for which prenatal care began in the first trimester, 1997	12,070	88.4%	-1.4%	81.8%
Low birth weight infants; live births under 2,500 grams (5.5 pounds) as a percent of all live births, 1997	809	5.9%	+0.0%	7.5%
Infant mortality rate; five-year average 1993-1997 rate per 1,000 live births	81	5.7	-1.7%	7.2
Child deaths (ages 1-14), five-year average (1993-1997); rate per 10,000 children aged 1-14	51.0	2.2	-0.4%	2.6
Teen deaths (ages 15-19), five-year average (1993-1997); rate per 10,000 children aged 15-19	51.0	5.9	-1.3%	7.9
Teen violent deaths (ages 15-19), five-year average (1993-1997); rate per 10,000 children aged 15-19	39.4	4.6	-4.9%	6.2
Child and teen suicides (ages 10-19), five-year average (1993-1997), rate per 10,000 children aged 10-19	10.80	0.6	+0.0%	.55
Domestic assaults reported to police, 1998; rate per 100,000 population	3,853	310.2	-8.6%	
Arrests of children, aged 10-17, 1998; rate per 1,000 children aged 10-17	11,720	81.1	-8.5%	
Arrests of children aged 10-17 for crimes against persons, 1998; rate per 1,000 children aged 10-17	167	1.2	-12.1%	4.7

Social and Economic Opportunity	Number	Rate or Percent	Change from last book	National Rate
Children aged 0 - 17 in Poverty, 1995	49,762	16.2%	-16.5%	20.8
Median household income, 1995	$ 31,189		+8.6%	$ 34,07
Children on TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families), October 1999	22,356	7.5%	-9.0%	
Children aged 0-17 receiving food stamps, October 1999	35,360	11.9%	-12.2%	
School children receiving subsidized school lunch, 1998-1999 school year, as a percent of total public school enrollment				
Total Eligible (as % of total school enrollment)	66,895	31.71%	+1.2%	
Free	50,815	24.09%	+0.4%	
Reduced price	16,080	7.62%	+3.7%	
Unemployed persons aged 16 and over, annual average, 1998	28,700	4.4%	-18.5%	4.5
Births to unmarried teenaged mothers who have not completed 12 years of school; five-year average 1993-1997, rate per 1,000 females aged 10-19	692	8.1	-3.9%	
● Estimated livable wage based on a basic needs budget for a single parent, two-person family, 1999	$11.41			

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Maine State Profile

Education and Learning	Number	Rate or percent	Change from last book	National Rate
Public School Fall enrollment, 1998-1999 School Year				
Total	210,981	100.%	-0.8%	
Grades K-8	151,059	71.6%	-1.5%	
Grades 9-12	59,922	28.4%	+1.3%	
Private School Fall enrollment, 1998-1999 School Year				
Total	16,001	100.0%	+4.5%	
Grades K-8	7156	44.7%	+2.6%	
Grades 9-12	8,845	55.3%	+6.0%	
Home Schooled students, 1998 annual average				
Total (Sum of averages)	3,322	100.0%	+5.8%	
Grades K-8	2,570	77.4%	+4.3%	
Grades 9-12	752	22.6%	+11.2%	
Total Public, Private, Home School	230,304		-0.3%	
Percent Public		91.6%	-0.4%	
Percent Private		6.9%	4.8%	
Percent Home School		1.4%	+6.1%	
High school dropouts, 1997-1998 school year, drop out rate	2,029	3.0%	+1.0%	
High school graduates planning to attend post-secondary school, 1997-1998 school year	7,545	60.5%	+0.3%	65.0%
Children with Disabilities age 3-21 as reported to the Department of Education; rate per 1,000 students enrolled in public and private schools, 1998-1999 school year	34,306	151.14	+2.1%	

	Demographics	Number	Rate or percent
	Total Population - 1997 estimate	1,242,051	100.%
	Under 5 years old	69,425	5.6%
	5-17 years old	227,841	18.3%
	18-64 years old	771,521	62.1%
	65 years and over	173,264	13.9%
	Other age groupings:		
	0-17 years old	297,266	23.9%
	0-19 years old	331,256	26.7%
	10-17 years old	144,511	11.6%
●	18-24 years old	109,725	8.8%
▲	**Race and ethnicity of children 0-19, 1998 estimated**		
	White	319,140	97.8%
	Asian and Pacific Islander	3,102	1.0%
	American Indian	1,972	0.6%
	Black	2,046	0.6%
	Total	326,260	100.0%
●	Total Hispanic	3,163	1.0%

▲ The indicator has changed from that used in last year's Data Book. Please see each indictor's definition for an explanation of the exact change(s).

● New indicator

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